Dear Members, Partners and Friends of ICLEI,

We are pleased to send you the latest news on ICLEI in Europe and our partners for urban sustainability!

You can also read these news articles and find more information on the topics at www.iclei-europe.org.

Don't hesitate to send your news and information to information.services@iclei.org.

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**1. ICLEI Member News**

**ICLEI members finalists for SUMP Award**

The finalists for the 2014 Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) award are ICLEI members Bremen (Germany), Ghent (Belgium), and Dresden (Germany), while Municia (Spain), Ostermalm (Sweden) and Vienna (Austria) have been announced as the finalists for the 2014 edition of the European Mobility Week (EMW) Award. The winning cities will be announced at a ceremony on 23 March 2015 in Brussels (Belgium).

The winner of the SUMP award will take home €10,000. A more detailed description of each SUMP Award finalist can be found online. The EMW award finalists were selected from a shortlist of 10 by a jury of independent transport experts.

**City of Helsinki reviews carbon footprint of catering services**

ICLEI member Helsinki (Finland) has committed itself to reducing CO2 emissions through changing its approach to purchasing food. Palmia, a catering service, a municipal enterprise owned by the city, provides catering services to the city’s schools, day-care centres, hospitals and other public services, producing around 22 million meals per year. Realising that the way food is produced impacts emission rates more than its transport, Palmia is undertaking the “Responsible Meal 2012 – 15” project to measure CO2 emissions.

Data on the climate impact of Helsinki’s food services has come from three key areas: food procurement, direct energy consumption of food production, and internal logistics of the catering service. Results indicate that through the ingredients chosen, food purchasing is responsible for 58 percent (the largest proportion) of the total carbon footprint.

The City of Helsinki has also committed to the socially responsible acquisition of food and received a Fair Trade City designation in 2013 for its pledge to procure fair trade products. Palmia shifted to exclusive use of organic Fair Trade coffee at its 26 cafeterias in 2011.

**For more information, visit the Do the Right Mix website.**

**Glasgow aims to power historic house with hydro electricity**

A soon-to-be-implemented hydro electric scheme could power one of Glasgow’s (United Kingdom) most historic landmarks, Pollok House. Sustainable Glasgow, the Council’s initiative to ensure a sustainable future, is drawing up plans for a water power project in Pollok Country Park which will generate sustainable energy by harnessing the power of the White Cart river. Installation of turbines and the connection to Pollok House will cost around £250,000. Revenue from the sale of electricity partnered with the Feed-in Tariff (a sustainable energy cash-back scheme) will equate to around £41,000 a year, meaning that the system will pay for itself within five years.

Councillor Alistair Watson, Executive Member for Sustainability & Transport, said: “Harnessing the power of rivers to generate clean, sustainable energy is an exciting proposition for the city and this project is actually going back to the future, as tools in the sawmill were originally powered by a water wheel”.

**For more information, read the Green public procurement in practice news alert.**

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**2. ICLEI World Congress to highlight role of women leaders in sustainability**

Global leaders such as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Chilean President Michelle Bachelet and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (pictured), United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women, have stated there is a pressing need for full and effective engagement of women across all tiers of the global climate discussion. In a call to action titled Women Leaders: Time to step it up for gender equality, presented at the conclusion of the recent Women and Power: Building a Different World conference held on 28 February, the three leaders stated: “Empowering women’s voices, expanding their agency, and boosting their leadership and influence is vital to the achievement of democracy, good governance, economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace. [...] In this century, in the face of new global challenges, women and men must share responsibility for determining their futures, and in building peaceful, climate-resilient communities”.

In response to the growing need for gender-related sustainability dialogue, the ICLEI World Congress 2015 will host Women Advancing Transforming Cities to address how local governments can foster women’s leadership and participation at all levels of the climate discussion. Best practice examples will showcase how local governments are working to amplify the voice of women in decision-making, and engaging grassroots women’s organisations in the development of gender-sensitive urban solutions. The session will be led by Councillor Cathy Ckae from the City of Melbourne (Australia), Michele Sabban president of RD5 Regions of Climate Action, and Åsa Karlsson Björkmarker, Deputy Mayor of Växjö (Sweden).

**For more information, visit the ICLEI World Congress website.**
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energy efficiency and treating it as an energy source in its own right so that it can compete on equal terms with
enforce and maintain free energy flows across borders; place energy efficiency first by “fundamentally rethinking
Specifically, the Energy Union will: implement a solidarity clause to reduce dependence on single suppliers;
responsible for Energy Union (pictured), at the core of the coalition is the goal of a transition to a “low-carbon
economic factors and the increasing shift to cleaner fuels. The report adds to the growing body of evidence that
become a major motor of Europe's economy, bringing down emissions while creating jobs”.

Opening the launch, Karin Wanngård, Mayor of Stockholm, said: “GrowSmarter holds a huge potential to create and spread new ideas enabling cities to develop in a social, environmental and economically sustainable way”. The project is spearheaded by a team of European partners, including ICLEI.

CO-POWER pushes for community energy to be enshrined in EU law

Senior officials from the European Union and Member States are negotiating a framework for climate and energy legislation reform that will set the basis until 2030. In the past, the approach advocated by projects such as ClientEarth and CO-POWER has been largely missing from the debate: community energy.

While EU legislation implicitly backs some aspects of community energy— where citizens own or participate in the production and use of sustainable energy – it doesn't explicitly recognise or support it. ClientEarth's latest report Community Power: Model legal frameworks for citizen-owned renewable energy argues it is time for the EU to acknowledge the growing role of citizen energy in developing a more sustainable energy system. The CO-POWER project, in line with ClientEarth's position, has developed recommendations for measures and legislation at EU level and in seven target member states (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Spain, and the United Kingdom).

Rene  

European greenhouse gas emissions may have been seven percentage points lower in 2012 without the deployment of renewable energy from 2005 onwards concludes a new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA). The use of coal would have resulted in a 12 percent increase in harmful emissions, while natural gas would have seen a 7 percent increase.

The share of renewable energy was 15 percent of the EU's total energy consumption in 2013, surpassing the target set in the European Commission's Renewable Energy Directive. EEA Executive Director Hans Bruyninckx said: “Renewable energy is quickly becoming one of Europe's great success stories. We can go even further if we support innovation in this area it could become a major motor of Europe's economy, bringing down emissions while creating jobs”.

In addition to renewable energy, other factors have also been responsible for the decrease in Europe's emissions. These include policies and measures designed to improve energy efficiency, as well as changing economic factors and the increasing shift to cleaner fuels. The report adds to the growing body of evidence that low-carbon development can reduce emissions while stimulating economic growth.

EC Energy Union to regulate energy and transition to low-carbon EU

Energy, an intrinsic element of European society, heats and cools buildings and homes, transports goods, and helps power the economy. However, until now there has been no singular energy market in Europe, meaning aging infrastructure, poorly integrated markets, and uncoordinated policies have resulted in underutilised and unevenly distributed energy, pricing and choice.

In an announcement made in late February delivering on the top priority set out in President Juncker's political guidelines, the European Commission has outlined its strategy to achieve a resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy. Dubbed the largest energy project since the Coal and Steel Community,” by Maros Sefčovič European Commission Vice-President responsible for Energy Union (pictured), at the core of the coalition is the goal of a transition to a “low-carbon society that is built to last”.

Specifically, the Energy Union will implement a solidarity clause to reduce dependence on single suppliers; enforce and maintain free energy flows across borders; place energy efficiency first by “fundamentally rethinking energy efficiency and treating it as an energy source in its own right so that it can compete on equal terms with generation capacity”, and transition to a low-carbon Europe, emphasising energy and technology produced in the EU.

Event News

4th Local and Regional Authorities Conference at World Water Forum in Korea

ICLEI has joined forces with an international partnership— including UCLG, UN-Habitat, GWOPA, and the World Water Council - to organise another edition of the Local and Regional Authorities Conference as part of the
The conference invites local and regional decision makers, planners and managers to investigate local challenges and implementation pathways in the field of water. This includes looking at the strengths of multiscaled water governance, as well as the wide range of partnerships which are available for local and regional governments to build their capacities and pool resources for more integrated and effective approaches in the future. The spotlight will also be on the opportunities at sub-national level deriving from global policy processes - in particular the expected endorsement of a Sustainable Development Goal solely dedicated to water.

For more information, visit the event programme.

Registration for CARE-North plus Final Conference open

Registration is now open for the CARE-North plus final conference ‘On the Move! – Transport Strategies for a Low Carbon Future’, which will take place in Bremen (Germany) on 15 – 16 April 2015. The event will highlight comprehensive, strategic and practical approaches to urban and regional transport and accessibility for the North Sea Region. Shared mobility, developing a cycling culture, provocative scenarios about the future of urban mobility and the potential of e-mobility have been a focus of the project, the outcomes of which will be shared with conference participants.

The two day event will be moderated by Holger Robrecht, Deputy Regional Director of ICLEI Europe. Guest speaker Susan Zielinski, Managing Director of Sustainable Mobility & Accessibility Research & Transformation (SMART) at the University of Michigan, will deliver the keynote address.

For more information, visit the CARE-North plus website.

Sustainable Energy Europe Awards deadline extended to 16 March

The Sustainable Energy Europe Awards 2015 have extended the deadline for submission: applicants now have until 16 March to complete their nomination. Taking place during the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) on 15 – 19 June, the awards highlight the best sustainable energy projects across Europe.

Categories for the 2015 awards are: Cities, Communities and Regions, Renewable Energy, and Energy Efficiency. Nominees and winners will be invited to the awards ceremony, giving them increased European visibility.

For more information, visit the EU Sustainable Energy Europe website.

Zeitzeichen local German sustainability awards open

The ninth Netzwerk21Kongress (Network 21 Congress) Zeitzeichen local German sustainability award is now open, and interested parties are encouraged to apply. The aim of the award is to promote commitment to a sustainable future, highlighting initiatives that push forward green actions. Successful applicants will be awarded within the following categories: initiatives, business, municipalities, youth, education for sustainable development, and international partnerships.

The evaluation of proposals will be conducted by the Netzwerk21Kongress jury, who will allocate the €14,000 prize money. The awards will be presented on the first day of the congress, which will be held in Lübeck (Germany) from 4 – 5 November 2015. Supporters and sponsors of the award include the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the German Federal Environment Agency, and ICLEI.

For more information, visit the Netzwerk21Kongress website [in German].

Event Calendar

**4th Informed Cities Forum**

26 – 27 March 2015 – Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

ICLEI World Congress 2015

8 – 12 April 2015 – Seoul (Republic of Korea)

Sustainable Public Procurement workshop

12 April 2015 – Seoul (Republic of Korea)

7th World Water Forum

12 – 17 April 2015 – Daegu and Gyeongbuk (Republic of Korea)

Regional Authorities Conference

13 – 14 April 2015 – Gyeongju (Republic of Korea)

CARE-North plus conference

15 – 16 April 2015 – Bremen (Germany)

RAMSES 2nd Stakeholder Dialogue

11 May – 2015 Copenhagen (Denmark)

European Climate Change Adaptation Conference 2015

11 – 14 May 2015 – Copenhagen (Denmark)

European Sustainable Development Week

30 May – 5 June – Europe

Resilient Cities 2015

8 – 10 June 2015 – Bonn (Germany)